

Grade 3-4: Small Group Leader Guide

April 14th 2024

Today's Bible Story: Can't Hardly Wait (Esau's Impatience) • *Genesis 25:24-34*

Today's Bottom Line: When you think you can't wait, think twice.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the LORD. Psalm 27:14 (NirV)*

Monthly Virtue: Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.



Small Group Connect (10 Minutes)

1. **Introduce** yourself, and **welcome** new kids by name.
2. Kids **share** what happened during the past week.
3. **Check up** on past week's prayer requests and events.
4. **Discuss** the welcome question: "Ask them about the best and worst part of their week."
5. **Activity**

Opening Activity

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: "Cookout Puzzle" Activity Pages and scissors

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Place a pile of pieces from the "Cookout Puzzle" Activity Pages face down in front of each group.
- When you say, "flip it," encourage the teams to flip over their pages and assemble the puzzle.
- Instruct the teams to assemble the puzzle, raise their hands, and answer what the puzzle picture shows.
- The first team to assemble the puzzle and answer correctly, wins!

What You Say:

"How many of you had to think twice about some of those puzzle pieces? *(Invite responses.)* You had to think twice, and some things just turn out better after cooking them twice. Have you ever had a twice-baked potato? *(Invite responses.)* If you could put any topping on a potato, what would it be? *(Invite responses.)* **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we aren't talking about twice-baked potatoes, but we're going to hear about why we should think twice when it comes to patience."**

Lead your group to the Large Group area



Small Group Activity (20 Minutes)

This or That

What You Need: “This or That” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Choose one kid to go first.
- Read them the first question of the Review Questions, which are listed below.
 - If the kid doesn’t get the answer correct, invite them to choose another kid to try.
 - If the kid gets the answer correct, hand the kid the “This or That” Activity Page.
 - Invite that kid to read a choice from the “This or That” Activity Page to the group.
 - Instruct everyone who chooses the first option (this) to run to the right side of the room, or if they choose the second option (that) to run to the left side of the room.
- Continue in this way until all review questions have been answered.

Review Questions:

1. What were the two brothers’ names from our story today? (*Jacob and Esau*)
2. Which brother was older? (*Esau*)
3. Describe Esau. (*Answers may vary: He was hairy, he liked hunting, and he wrestled with his brother before they were even born.*)
4. Describe Jacob. (*Answers may vary: He wasn’t hairy, he liked staying closer to home, and he wrestled with his brother before they were even born.*)
5. After Esau returned from hunting one day while Jacob was cooking stew, what happened next? (*Esau demanded some of the soup Jacob was cooking because Esau was really hungry.*)
6. What did Jacob say when Esau asked for some stew? (*Jacob said that he would trade him the soup for Esau’s rights as the firstborn.*)
7. What were some of the rights that the firstborn had? (*The firstborn would receive money and possessions when the father passed away. He also received the opportunity to eventually lead the family.*)
8. Did Esau decide to be wise and patient? (*No. He was impatient and gave up his rights for the bowl of stew.*)
9. Why was this such an unwise choice? (*Answers may vary, like: This was an unwise choice because bad things happened, including a lot of fighting within the family. Esau also missed out on a lot of good things.*)
10. What could have happened if Esau decided to be patient? (*Answers may vary*)

What You Say:

“When Esau was faced with a choice of this or that—wait and eat later, or give up his rights for a bowl of stew—what choice did he make? (*Pause for responses.*) You’re right! Esau didn’t wait, and he gave up his rights as the oldest son.

“Because of Esau’s impatience, many bad things happened, including a lot of fighting within the family. Eventually he and Jacob made up, but Esau would still have to live with the consequences of his impatience.

“God never gives up on us. And God forgives us when we show impatience. But, just like Esau, there are real consequences when we don’t wait. So, remember this: **[Bottom Line] When you think you can’t wait, think twice.**”

To create meaningful relationships with kids and parents so that they can confidently pursue a life-long relationship with Jesus.



Small Group Discussion (10 Minutes)

Say the Bottom Line and Bible Verse together:

Today's Bottom Line: when you think you can't wait, think twice.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Wait for the LORD.* Psalm 27:14 (NirV)

Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Say:

"Dear God, thank You for the gift of patience through Your Holy Spirit. We know that when we choose to believe in You and follow You, we aren't left alone in our waiting. You give us a way to be strong and have hope while we wait. Please make it clear this week when we need to show patience. Help us to slow down and remember: **[Bottom Line] When you think you can't wait, think twice.** We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



Check Out & Parent Pick-up

Kids should stay in the Small Group until their parents arrive to pick them up and show the 3 digit tag that matches the number on the name tag of the child being picked up..

When a kid from your small group leaves, **say** something positive and specific to their parent. Remember this week to **Bottom Line: when you think you can't wait, think twice.**